

Case 2886

***Doris grandiflora* Rapp, 1827 (currently *Dendrodoris grandiflora*; Mollusca, Gastropoda): proposed conservation of the specific name**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application is to conserve the specific name of the Mediterranean nudibranch *Dendrodoris grandiflora* (Rapp, 1827). This species has been widely studied taxonomically and ecologically, and also with regard to some unusual chemical compounds present in it and allied species. The specific name of *Doris guttata* Risso, 1826 is a senior subjective synonym of *grandiflora*, but it has never been used and its suppression is proposed.

1. The species *Doris guttata* was reported by Risso (1826, p. 33) as occurring under stones on the Mediterranean coast of France. The species was described as being of transparent grey colour with black spots; no illustration was given and no type material is known. Cantraine (1841, p. 61) remarked of Risso's work '... il est difficile de deviner les espèces que le naturaliste de Nice décrit', but in the light of later knowledge of Mediterranean nudibranchs the identity of *D. guttata* is clear.

2. Rapp (1827, p. 520) described *Doris grandiflora* from the Golfo di Napoli in Italy and gave a coloured illustration (pl. 27, fig. 3).

3. Abraham (1877, p. 211) listed both *D. guttata* and *D. grandiflora*, and in a footnote remarked that both names might be synonyms of *D. limbata* Cuvier, 1804. Ihering (1880, p. 104) regarded *D. grandiflora* as a species distinct from *D. limbata* and this view has been accepted ever since. Ihering gave *D. guttata* Risso, 1826 as a synonym of *D. grandiflora* Rapp, 1827, without commenting on the priority of the former name, and there is little doubt that this synonymy is taxonomically correct.

4. Ihering (1880) placed *Doris grandiflora* in the genus *Doriopsis* Pease, 1860; Pruvot-Fol (1930) transferred it and other species lacking a radula to *Doridopsis* Alder & Hancock, 1863. *Doridopsis* is a junior subjective synonym of *Dendrodoris* Ehrenberg, 1831, and for many years Rapp's species has been placed in *Dendrodoris*.

5. The specific name of *Doris guttata* has not been used as valid since its original proposal in 1826. However *Dendrodoris grandiflora* is in constant use, and we have given the Commission Secretariat a list of 45 works (36 from the last 50 years) to illustrate this; the case for the conservation of *grandiflora* clearly meets the *prima facie* criteria mentioned in Article 79c of the Code. As examples of works we mention Pruvot-Fol (1954), Nordsieck (1972), Fez (1974), Barletta (1980), Schmekel & Portman (1982), Cervera et al. (1988), Cattaneo-Vietti & Thompson (1989) and Cattaneo-Vietti, Chemello & Giannuzzi-Savelli (1990). The karyotype of *D. grandiflora* has been studied by Rasotto & Cardellini (1983). The unusual chemical products found in it and allied species have been investigated (Karus, 1987; Cimino, Sodano

& Spinella, 1988; Ávila et al., 1991; Villani, 1991); these include the compounds polygodial and olepupane which repel predators.

6. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to suppress the specific name *guttata* Risso, 1826, as published in the binomen *Doris guttata*, for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *grandiflora* Rapp, 1827, as published in the binomen *Doris grandiflora*;
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *guttata* Risso, 1826, as published in the binomen *Doris guttata* and as suppressed in (1) above.

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